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of the measure; what Disraeli contributed to its success; what the bill cost Derby and Disraeli in defections from the ministry; and also what was contributed by the Liberals and the Radicals to the bill from which the modern Conservative party can with appropriateness date its origin.

Mr. Buckle draws on all the memoirs of the statesmen of that era for the material for these chapters. All this material is exceedingly well handled; with the result that the best, most complete, and most informing history of the reform act of 1867—of “the leap in the dark”—is now to be found, not in monographs on parliamentary reform, but in volume IV. of the Disraeli biography.

It must have been comparatively easy for both the late Mr. Monypenny and for Mr. Buckle in preparing the life of Disraeli to write a biography which should stand out among the biographies of English statesmen. Disraeli's origin, his character, and his peculiar and outstanding achievements, made it easily possible to produce such a work. Why the *Disraeli Life* stands out in the enormous library of British political biography has been indicated in this note and in the notes on the earlier volumes. But there is one other reason for its distinction that has yet to be stated. It is more than a life of Disraeli. From 1858 the book tells the story of the life of Mrs. Disraeli; and Mr. Buckle, largely by the extent to which he has drawn upon letters, has given us an admirable picture of the home life of the Disraelis and of Mrs. Disraeli's part in her husband's political career. Mrs. Gladstone is the only wife of an English statesman of front rank who has been as fortunate as Mrs. Disraeli as regards her husband's biographer.

EDWARD PORRITT.

Delane of the Times. By Sir EDWARD COOK. [Makers of the Nineteenth Century, edited by Basil Williams.] (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1916. Pp. xi, 319.)

DASENT's *Life* of Delane and Atkins's biography of William Howard Russell have been, heretofore, the principal works exhibiting the personality and influence of the man who for thirty-six years (1841-1877) was the “great editor” of the *Times*. Undoubtedly a more vivid impression of the man is received from the earlier works, than from the present one, but not so clear a statement and analysis of his position, policies, and influence. Dasent, unintentionally, leaves the impression that Delane was a tuft-hunter. The present author, Sir Edward Cook, shows, rather, that Delane, socially acceptable in the “highest circles”, received there the hints which made the *Times* not merely a record, but a forecast of events. Especially was Delane at home in political circles, never permanently allying the *Times* with any party or minister, but usually giving support to the incoming administration, and continuing it until signs of political change manifested themselves—when the *Times* often shifted to attack. Delane saw no inconsistency in this; he held that the *Times* should represent the people of England, and that the

influence and service of the paper were dependent upon a complete freedom from political ties. So powerful was his position that ministers (Lord John Russell excepted), while frequently vexed and privately expressing indignation with Delane's criticisms, paid court to him, gave him advance information, and often sought to discover the line the *Times* would take.

Of all the prime ministers, during the Delane editorship, Palmerston was his favorite; for the two men were of very similar tastes, principles, and outlook. Thus Delane "was not a democrat", and the *Times* was usually on the side of conservatism and tradition. Yet if the handwriting on the wall read that political reform was inevitable the *Times* favored and sought to guide that reform. Naturally conservatives accused Delane (as did Greville) of desiring "a change in the whole system of government, and the substitution of plebeians and new men for leaders of parties and members of aristocratic families" (p. 83). Yet radicals accepted Matthew Arnold's picture of the *Times* as

a gigantic Sancho Panza, following by an attraction he cannot resist that poor, mad, scorned, suffering, sublime enthusiast, the modern spirit; following it, indeed, with constant grumbling, expostulation, and opposition, with airs of protection, of compassionate superiority . . . but still following it (p. 142).

The very warmth of attack upon the *Times*, and from opposite quarters, testifies to Delane's independence and the power of his paper. He never permitted acknowledgment of error, being "an adept in the gentle art of journalistic curvature" (p. 106). Very little writing of leaders was done by Delane himself, but all of importance were outlined by him, their scope and treatment indicated, with many alterations before going to press. The entire issue passed under his supervision but the leading articles were his greatest care. It is important for students to understand, what the author emphasizes, that the first-column leading article of the *Times* furnishes the historical meat of that issue, in relation to both policy and news, for it was here that Delane presented the latest information, or the newest political prophecy. Indeed, the "great news" of the day might not appear at all in the news columns of that issue, and never, of course, with scare-heads to attract attention.

The present work, as a whole, is readable, accurate, and judicial in tone. It seeks to convey a just estimate of Delane's position and political influence, and it leaves one with a sense that a life of Delane very properly appears as the first volume of a new series, *Makers of the Nineteenth Century*.

E. D. ADAMS.